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Message Text

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73
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /143 W
---------- 122137
R 151945Z OCT 73
FM AMCONSUL MEDELLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 677
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDELLIN 0248

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS CAS
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED FRONTINO OFFICIALS AND MID-MAGDALENA
GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES

REF: MEDELLIN 226 BOGOTA 7889.

1. CONSUL MET OCTOBER FIFTEEN WITH COL RIVEROS WHO SAID DETAIL
ED REPORT PRIMISED CONSUL (SEE REFTEL) WILL BE READY NEXT
WEEK. RIVEROS SAID BRIGADE OPERATIONS IN ANORI CONTINUE
WITHOUT ABATEMENT AND EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT THE TWO GUERRILLA
CHIEFS IN THE AREA ANTONIO AND MANUEL VASQUEZ ARE REDUCED
TO ONLY SIX FOLLOWERS. RIVEROS ASSERTED HE EXPECTS WIPE THEM OUT
SHORTLY. HE SAID THEIR BROTHER FABIO VASQUEZ OPERATING NORTH
OF ANORI AND IS NOT CURRENTLY ENGAGED BY BRIKADE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO KIDNAPED FRONTINO OFFICIALS, RIVEROS SAID
THEY HAD BEEN GUILTY OF SERIOUS IMPRUDENCE TRAVELLING IN BANDIT
AND GUERRILLA CONTROLLED AREA WITHOUT ADVISING OR ASKING PROTECTION
OF BRIGADE. RIVEROS BELIEVES THEY HELD BY GUERRILLA LEADER
OPERATING UNDER CODE NAME RENE, WHO HE SAID OF SAME AFFILIATION
(ELN) AS VASQUEZ BUT SEPARATE GROUP.

3. RIVEROS SAID FRONTINO COMPANY HAD INDICATED THEY DO NOT WANT
ARMY OR GOC INTERFERENCE IN KIDNAPPING AND ASSUMED COMPANY
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NEGOTIATING. HE SAID HE HAS TAKEN NO ADDITIONAL STEPS IN

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KIDNAP AREA (ZARAGOZA AND SEGOVIA) BUT INDICATED THAT AS
SOON AS HE WIPES OUT VASQUEZ BROTHERS IN ANORI HE PLANS TO
TRANSFER ALL OF HIS PEOPLE TO CLEAN UP ZARAGOZA AND SEGOVIA
REGION. HE IMPLIED THAT PUBLIC SECURITY NEED TO CLEAR GUERRILLAS
OUT OF AREA MUST OVER RIDE CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF THE TWO
FRONTINO OFFICIALS.

4. RIVEROS AND ENTIRE STAFF AT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS DRESSED
IN BATTLE FATIGUES READY FOR IMMEDIATE HELICOPTER TRANSFER
TO ANORI REGION. THE COLONEL IS SPENDING MUCH TIME IN FIELD AND
APPOLIGIZED FOR BEING DIFFICULT TO REACH.
COOPER

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NNN

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